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Please support this amendment to aid and comfort those suffering from HIV and AIDS.

**TRIBUTE TO MARSHA SHASTEEN
AND HER DEDICATED SERVICE
ON THE HOUSE SCIENCE COM-
MITTEE**

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a staff member whose service on the House Science Committee is coming to an end this month. Marsha Shasteen has contributed greatly to our staff and her Hill acumen will be greatly missed.

Marsha has spent her time in Congress working in both Member and Committee offices. She began by working in her home state of Texas for The Honorable RALPH HALL of the 4th Congressional District. After three years in his district office, Marsha moved to Mr. HALL's personal office staff in Washington, DC where she served 4 years as a legislative assistant.

Marsha has served the Science Committee Democratic staff as Counsel for nearly 6 years. In fact, Marsha was Mr. HALL's first appointee to the House Science Committee staff when he took over as Ranking Democrat in 1999.

As Counsel for the Committee, Marsha worked to assist Members, their staff, and the Committee staff in tracking relevant legislation, jurisdictional research, and special projects to assist Members in developing legislative proposals and specific bill referrals for the Committee.

She has also been involved in oversight activities, coordinating with the Government Accountability Office on a number of projects across Committee jurisdiction. She has often been called upon to assist Committee Members with mark-ups and during floor debate on legislation originating with the Committee.

Her Committee colleagues regard her as a no nonsense attorney who has made her mark on ethics matters and nuances of committee jurisdiction and process.

One of her legislative successes was the Wind Hazard Reduction Act—introduced by Rep. DENNIS MOORE (D-KS)—which went on to become law.

Through her work on the legislation, Marsha helped establish the Congressional Wind Hazard Reduction Caucus—a group dedicated to a major, measurable reduction in loss from devastating windstorms over the next decade. In addition, she organized related events for Members designed to raise awareness on the issue, including field hearings and district meetings.

Marsha excelled at Member service and outreach. Many times, she was tasked with devising and executing events in Members' districts on behalf of the Committee. Her vast experience on legislative issues and her extensive organizational skills put her at ease in every community she visited, ensuring that the Member's event went off without a hitch. No matter the topic or the town, Marsha negotiated the challenges with ease.

Active in the Capitol Hill community, Marsha has made friends and established extensive contacts as an active member of the Congressional Legislative Staff Association—serving on their board for the past four years.

An energetic and accomplished Capitol Hill attorney with a heart for service and outreach, Marsha will be greatly missed on the Committee. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

**TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDE-
PENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2006**

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment, which would increase funding for the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, created by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (P.L. 108-458), to \$1.5 million.

The bill currently reserves \$750,000 of the \$53 million budget of the Executive Office of the President for the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. The amendment would reserve \$3 million of this \$53 million budget. This level of funding is closer to what was initially given to the 9/11 Commission.

The purpose of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is to ensure the protection of civil liberties by the federal government. The appropriate amount of funding is crucial in ensuring that privacy and civil liberties concerns are appropriately considered. This will prove significant in the implementation of laws, regulations, and executive branch policies related to efforts to protect our Nation against terrorism.

In addition, the additional funding will allow the board to develop the infrastructure they need to do their job and will demonstrate Congress's intentions to fully support this significant board.

We certainly understand the need to aggressively fight the war on terror, but the 9/11 Commission Report reminds us that, "The choice between security and liberty is a false choice, as nothing is more likely to endanger America's liberties than the success of a terrorist attack at home. Our history has shown that this insecurity threatens liberty at home. Yet if our liberties are curtailed, we lose the values that we are struggling to defend."

The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is an important body. We must do everything we can to ensure its efficiency and operation.

**CONGRATULATING STEAMTOWN
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ON ITS
10TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania, which is observing its 10th anniversary as a unique and valuable venue that salutes the heritage of America's railroading past.

The invention of the steam-powered locomotive in the early 19th century proved to be one of the great evolutionary forces that transformed the United States from an agricultural society to a manufacturing giant that would propel this Nation into the realm of a superpower.

No longer tethered to the vagaries of animal and water powered transportation, the United States would discover that people and manufacturing product could be transported over great distances in much shorter periods of time, thus enabling this country to explore its vast expanses quite literally from sea to shining sea.

Truly, it was the railroad and the emerging anthracite coal industry in northeastern Pennsylvania that allowed our immigrant forebears to realize their dream of a better life than they had in their country of origin.

By 1852, thanks to merchants demanding faster and more reliable means of transporting their goods, more than 9,000 miles of track had been laid, mostly in New England and the Middle Atlantic states. During the next decade, American railroads grew into a coordinated iron network of more than 30,000 miles, serving all States east of the Mississippi River. By 1880, the United States had 94,000 miles of track binding the country together. Twenty years later, it had 193,000. By the end of World War I in 1918, the country could boast more than 254,000 miles of track and 65,000 steam locomotives.

Until the end of World War I, railroads carried the bulk of all freight and passengers.

In a very real sense, the railroad and anthracite coal industries, both of which have deep roots in the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys, fueled the industrial revolution and contributed to making the United States the global force that it is today.

To fail to recognize that heritage would deny our children and grandchildren the ability to see that where we are today is due to where we came from yesterday.

Thankfully, because of the vision and perseverance of men like former U.S. Congressman Joseph McDade, who relentlessly pursued his dream of making Steamtown a reality, we have before us today a living museum that celebrates the role that steam powered railroads played in the development of our nation.

Steamtown's success is also due to the tireless work of former Gov. William Scranton, Austin Burke, executive director of the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, former Scranton Mayor James McNulty, Ed Rogers, former managing editor of The Scranton Times, and others who shared the vision.

Fortunately, because of places like Steamtown National Historic Site and other

museums, the contributions of steam railroading to the development of the United States will never be forgotten. And the lives and duties of the men and women who labored in the yards, roundhouses, stations and trains will be preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of Steamtown National Historic Site and in acknowledging the United States Park Service for its role in maintaining what has become a national treasure.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST DAY OF SALE OF THE 2005-2006 DUCK STAMP

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the first day of sale ceremony for the 2005-2006 duck stamp.

It is a great honor to be present today at the first day of sale ceremony. As you may know, Kerissa Nelson, a fellow Wisconsinite, is the artist behind this new stamp, and I would like to take a moment to commend Kerissa on her magnificent work. With the encouragement of her art teacher, Kerissa undertook the great challenge of competing in this year's duck stamp contest, and it is clear that her months of hard work paid off. Kerissa, the stamp is beautiful.

However, it is not just the beauty of the stamp that strikes me, but also the message that it conveys. Growing up in Wisconsin, I have a deep-seated love for the outdoors and enjoy hunting and fishing with my two little boys, whose company in the duck blind is the ultimate experience for me. I not only hope to pass on the traditions on hunting to them, but I also hope to pass on the importance of preserving the outdoors and our nation's wildlife.

I am aware that Kerissa is also an avid lover of the outdoors, shooting trap on a weekly league and hunting with her dad, and I commend Kerissa on her ability to convey both the love of hunting and the importance of conservation in the stamp she has designed.

Since the federal duck stamp's inception in 1934, these works of art have raised nearly \$700 million to help acquire more than 5.2 million acres of wetlands. Nearly 98 cents out of every duck stamp dollar goes directly for land acquisition on national wildlife refuges—benefiting hundreds of refuges found in every state. This stamp is more than art work; it is a guarantee that our nation's wildlife population will not be threatened by human interference.

Again, thank you, Kerissa, for your great contribution to this cause. Thank you also to everyone who is helping to celebrate Kerissa's achievement and the first day of sale for the new duck stamp.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 2005, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No.

341, on agreeing to the King (IA) amendment to H.R. 3058, the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 341.

EMERGENCY SPENDING TO SUPPORT A VA BUDGET SHORTFALL

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it has been recently reported by the Department of Veterans Affairs that the veterans healthcare system will have \$1 billion deficit at the end of FY 05.

I, like many other Members of Congress, am extremely concerned regarding this recent disclosure. As we continue to fight the Global war on terror and in Operation Iraqi Freedom, we need to ensure that the full range of veterans medical services are available for our returning veterans and those that have served before them. Our veterans are not served by taking funds from the VA capital investment account. These funds are vital to the purchase of new equipment and the maintenance and upkeep of VA facilities. I feel that these funds are critical to the total healthcare of a veteran. It is important that we find the funding necessary to address this shortfall and ensure that this does not occur again.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we must provide funding to make up for the shortfall in veterans healthcare, and I urge you to work with our colleagues on the Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs Committees to move legislation forward as soon as possible to address this shortfall.

THE HEALTHY START REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to announce that, with my colleague Rep. EDOLPHUS TOWNS, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the Healthy Start Act.

The Healthy Start program works to reduce the incidence of infant mortality and low birth weight and eliminate perinatal disparities in communities across the Nation where the infant mortality rate is in excess of 150 percent of the national average. The program, which began as a successful demonstration project in 1991 under the leadership of Health and Human Services Secretary Lewis Sullivan and was overwhelmingly authorized by Congress in 2000, has at its core the recognition that infant mortality and morbidity are not just medical problems, they are community problems. To qualify for a Healthy Start grant, communities must buy-in by forming networks of community public and private decision-makers and leaders, educators, health professionals, and family members to set ambitious goals for themselves and work in a coordinated and ef-

fective way to meet those goals. These programs are targeted to at-risk populations and are characterized by aggressive outreach to reach young women who are pregnant and/or are already mothers, as well as fathers, who live in communities with the toughest poverty, drug use, and unemployment.

We are fortunate to have a Healthy Start program in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in my Congressional district. Our Healthy Start Family Resource Center offers prenatal care, WIC resources, transportation, personal counseling and many other services. So far, 100 percent of the expectant mothers who have received prenatal care and other services through the center have delivered healthy babies.

The Healthy Start Reauthorization Act will reauthorize the program for fiscal years 2006 through 2011 at "such sums as may be necessary."

Please join Rep. TOWNS and me in supporting this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOTTEVILLE GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the stellar softball season for the Tottenville Girls Softball Team on their recent City Championship victory.

The Tottenville Pirates dominated the Public School Athletic League this season with an amazing 189 runs scored while only allowing an even more stunning 6 runs. More than 200 fans showed up to see if Tottenville was in fact for real. They went about their business as usual and recorded a 1-0 victory for the school's first Metro Bowl softball title—and they did it against arguably the top program in New York City.

Tottenville coach said they have prepared for this by playing against the top competition throughout New York City. And after the championship game, it was obvious that play against the best paid off.

On behalf of family, friends, fans, and the entire 13th Congressional District of Staten Island and Brooklyn, New York, I would like to again congratulate the Tottenville Girls Softball Team for their outstanding season. Each player, coach, and fan should be very proud of their efforts. I commend them for their drive, desire, and sportsmanship that they revealed throughout the season.

The Girls Tottenville Roster is as follows: Stefani Allen, Lauren Bello, Samantha Bennett, Ashley Brandow, Erin Dailey, Tara Dolton, Kim Ferraiolo, Megan Gardella, Michelle Gardella, Jessica Herrera, Alison Holtermann, Karisa Pietromonico, Nicole Pomponio, Christine Rode, Rebecca Sloan, Diana Stout, Brittney Stratton, Samantha Wagner.

Coaches: Cathy Morano, John Leverock, Victor Vazquez, Gene Castellucci, Joanna Pellicchia.